
OUTCOMES OF THE 17th SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT¹, 6 OCTOBER 2015

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 11th Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS11) of the recommendations arising from the 17th Session of the Scientific Committee (SC17) held from 8–12 December 2014, specifically relating to the work of the WPDCS.

BACKGROUND

At the 17th Session of the SC, the SC noted and considered the recommendations made by the WPDCS in 2014 that included modifications to national statistical systems.

Based on the recommendations arising from the WPDCS10, the SC17 adopted a set of recommendations, provide at [Appendix A](#) of this paper.

The recommendations contained in [Appendix A](#) were provided to the Commission for consideration at its 19th Session held in April/May 2015. A separate paper, IOTC–2015–WPDCS11–04 addresses the responses and actions of the Commission.

In addition, the SC17 reviewed and endorsed a Program of Work for the WPDCS, as detailed in [Appendix B](#). A separate paper (IOTC–2015–WPDCS11–09) will outline the review and further development of a *Program of Work* for the WPDCS for the next five years.

DISCUSSION

In addition to the recommendations outlined in [Appendix A](#) and [Appendix B](#), the following extracts from the SC17 Report (IOTC–2014–SC17–R) are provided here for the consideration and action of the WPDCS11:

General discussion on data issues

(Para. 81) **NOTING** that some CPCs provide little or no feedback regarding clarification sought on the data issues identified by the IOTC Secretariat or the science Working Parties, following communications from the IOTC Secretariat or actions recommended by the Working Parties, the SC **AGREED** that when this occurs and the IOTC Secretariat has access to alternative information, the IOTC Secretariat shall continue attempts to compile best scientific estimates of catch for those fisheries, using the information available, and present those estimates to the Working Parties and Scientific Committee for further review and endorsement. In this regard the SC **ENDORSED** the data review process presented in Appendix V of the WPDCS10 Report.

Review of length frequency data from longline fleets and likely impacts on the assessments

(Para. 91) The SC **AGREED** that further analysis was required to fully understand the recent changes in length composition reported by Taiwan,China – in particular whether there have been changes to the sampling protocols and selection of fish for sampling, and that the decline in the number of samples of small specimens of tropical tunas in particular may originate from high grading of catch onboard Taiwan,China longliners following the implementation of quotas on the Taiwan,China longline fleet in the Indian Ocean (i.e. only large specimens from the catch measured for length).

(Para. 92) The SC **AGREED** that additional work is required by Japan, in collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat, to understand the lack of coherence in the historical time series between the size frequency data, and catch-and-effort and nominal catch reported by Japan longline vessels.

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RECOMMENDATION

That the WPDCS:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2015-WPDCS11-03 which outlined the main outcomes of the 17th Session of the Scientific Committee, specifically related to the work of the WPDCS.
- 2) **CONSIDER** how best to progress these issues at the present meeting.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Consolidated set of recommendations of the 17th Session of the Scientific Committee (8–12 December 2014) to the Commission, relevant to the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics.

Appendix B: Program of Work (2015–2019) for the IOTC Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS).

APPENDIX A

CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 17th SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (8–12 DECEMBER 2014) TO THE COMMISSION RELEVANT TO THE WORKING PARTY ON METHODS

Extract of the Report of the 17th Session of the Scientific Committee

(IOTC–2014–SC17–R; Appendix XLIII, PAGES 347–357)

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION

Report of the 10th Session of the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS10)

Resolution 10/02 Mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties

SC17.24 ([para. 86](#)) The SC **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission makes the following amendments to IOTC Resolution 10/02:

- Adopting the following definitions in order to clarify the type of fisheries, area and species covered by Resolution 10/02:
 - **Longline fisheries:** Fisheries undertaken by vessels in the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels that use longline gear.
 - **Surface fisheries:** All fisheries undertaken by vessels in the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels other than longline fisheries; in particular purse seine, pole-and-line, and gillnet fisheries.
 - **Coastal fisheries:** Fisheries other than longline or surface, as defined above, also called artisanal fisheries.
 - **IOTC area of competence:** as described in Annex A of the IOTC Agreement.
 - **Species:** refers to all species under the IOTC mandate as described in Annex B of the IOTC Agreement, and the most commonly caught elasmobranch species, as defined by the Commission in IOTC Resolution 13/03 or any subsequent revisions of this Resolution.
 - **Support vessels:** Any types of vessels that operate in support of the fishing activities of purse seine vessels.
- Specify the requirements for Nominal Catch data, including:
 - Changing the term Nominal by Total;
 - Change the time-period resolution of Total catch data from Year to Quarter, in order to be able to assess the seasonality of fisheries, in particular those that do not report catch-and-effort data;
 - Request separate reports for retained catches (in live weight) and discards (in live weight or number), as per the above Resolution.
- Specify the requirements for Catch and effort data, including:
 - Surface fisheries: Extend the requirements to report catch and effort data by type of fishing mode, drifting or anchored FADs, to fisheries other than the purse seine fisheries that use FADs; and ensure that the effort units reported are consistent with those requested in Resolution 13/03 or any subsequent revisions to such Resolution;
 - Coastal fisheries: Specify the time-period to be used to report this information, preferably Month.
- Harmonise the type of data resolution that is requested for coastal fisheries, in particular for catch-and-effort and size data; for data to be reported by month and landing area.
- Specify that Size Frequency data shall be reported according to the procedures described in the IOTC Guidelines for the Reporting of Fisheries Statistics (instead of those set out by the IOTC Scientific Committee, as recorded in the present Resolution).
- Specify the requirements for data on supply vessels, including:
 - Change the term Supply to Support (Support Vessels);
 - Indicate that data on the activities of support vessels shall be reported by the flag country of the vessels that receive the assistance of the support vessel (and not by the

- flag country or other parties);
- Request the name of the purse seiners that receive assistance from each support vessel.

Review of Estimates of Input Fishing Capacity

SC17.25 (para. 88) **NOTING** that while there are currently forms available for the reporting of fishing capacity in the IOTC area of competence, the majority of CPCs do not report this information for its coastal fisheries, the SC **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider making reporting mandatory if an estimate of total fishing capacity is required.

Resolution 11/04 On a regional observer scheme

SC17.26 (para. 90) **NOTING** that the objective of the Regional Observer Scheme contained in Resolution 11/04, and the rules contained in Resolution 12/02 *On data confidentiality policy and procedures* makes no reference to the data collected not being used for compliance purposes, the SC **RECOMMENDED** that at the next revision of Resolution 11/04, it be clearly stated that the data collected within the Regional Observer Scheme shall not be used for compliance purposes.

Summary discussion of matters common to Working Parties (capacity building activities – stock assessment course; connecting science and management, etc.)

Capacity building activities

SC17.36 (para. 126) The SC **AGREED** that, while external funding is helping the work of the Commission, funds allocated by the Commission to capacity building are still too low, considering the range of issues identified by the SC and its Working Parties, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider allocating more funds to these activities in the future.

SC17.37 (para. 127) The SC **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission further increase the IOTC Capacity Building budget line so that capacity building workshops/training can be carried out in 2015, 2016 and future years on the collection, reporting and analyses of catch and effort data for IOTC species, with a special focus on neritic tuna and tuna-like species. Where appropriate these training sessions shall include information that explains the entire IOTC process from data collection to analysis and how the information collected is used by the Commission to develop Conservation and Management Measures.

APPENDIX B

PROGRAM OF WORK (2015–2019) FOR THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

The SC **NOTED** the proposed Program of Work and priorities for each of the Working Parties and **AGREED** to a consolidated Program of Work as outlined in Appendix XXXVIII. The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of each working party shall ensure that the efforts of their working party is focused on the core areas contained within the appendix, taking into account any new research priorities identified by the Commission at its next Session. (IOTC–2014–SC17–R, Para. 177)

Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS)

(Extracts from IOTC–2014–WPDCS10–R: Appendix VII)

The following is the Draft List of Priorities for the Development of a Program of Work by the IOTC WPDCS (2015–2019) and is based on the specific requests of the Commission and Scientific Committee. The Draft List of Priorities is presented in [Table A](#), noting that the Programme of Work and timeline for implementation would be developed by the SC once it has agreed to the priority projects across all of its Working Parties:

Table A. High priority topics, by project for data collection and statistics in the Indian Ocean.

Topic	Sub-topic and project	Rank
Data Collection Standards ROS	<p>Artisanal Fisheries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop minima data requirements for the routine collection of data at the landing place, through sampling by enumerators ➤ Develop General Guidelines for data collection from artisanal fisheries; including development of a set of indicators to be used to assess the quality of data collection and management systems for artisanal fisheries ➤ Develop/Amend Fisheries specific data collection protocols, by country, where necessary ➤ Assist implementation of pilot sampling activities in countries/fisheries not/insufficiently sampled in the past; priority to be given to the following fisheries: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coastal fisheries of Indonesia 2. Coastal fisheries of India 3. Coastal fisheries of Pakistan 4. Coastal fisheries of Sri Lanka 5. Coastal fisheries of Yemen 6. Coastal fisheries of Madagascar 7. Coastal fisheries of Comoros 8. Coastal fisheries of Tanzania 9. Coastal fisheries of Thailand 10. Coastal fisheries of Malaysia <hr/> <p>Industrial fisheries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop General Guidelines for data collection by at-sea observers; including development of a set of indicators to be used to assess the quality of data collection and management systems for industrial fisheries ➤ Organize a Regional Workshop on the Implementation of the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme (all IOTC CPCs having industrial fisheries) ➤ Develop/Amend fisheries specific at-sea observer data collection protocols, by country, where necessary ➤ Assist implementation of at-sea observer programmes in countries/fisheries not/insufficiently monitored in the past; including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of existing observer programmes and arrangements • Coordination of country/fishery specific Training Sessions and Workshops on the ROS • Assistance to data management and reporting Priority to be given to the following fisheries: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Iran (driftnet; purse seine) 2. Sri Lanka (purse seine; drifting gillnet & longline) 	1

Topic	Sub-topic and project	Rank
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Indonesia (longline) 4. Pakistan (driftnet) 5. India (longline) 6. Mauritius (purse seine; longline) 7. Malaysia (longline) 	
Review Size Data Longline Fisheries	Assistance to historical review of length frequency data for longline fisheries, in particular longliners from Taiwan, China and Japan.	2
Compliance with IOTC Data Requirements	<p>Data Support Missions</p> <p>➤ Identification of indicators to assess performance of IOTC CPCs against IOTC Data Requirements; evaluation of performance of IOTC CPCs with those Requirements; development of plans of action to address the issues identified, including timeframe of implementation and follow-up activities required.</p> <p>Priority to be given to the following fisheries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Iran 2. India 3. Pakistan 4. Yemen 5. Madagascar 6. Mozambique 7. Mauritius 8. Sri Lanka 9. Indonesia 	3
Assistance to Implementation of logbook systems and data collection on FADs	<p>Assist developing coastal IOTC CPCs in the implementation of logbook systems on industrial vessels under their flag, in particular: development of logbooks and guidelines for its completion, including provisions for FADs, as per IOTC Resolution 13/08; training of local staff; assistance to data management and reporting.</p> <p>Priority to be given to the following fisheries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Iran (driftnet; purse seine) 2. Sri Lanka (purse seine; drifting gillnet & longline) 3. Indonesia (longline) 4. Pakistan (driftnet) 5. India (longline) 6. Mauritius (purse seine; longline) 7. Malaysia (longline) 	4
Implementation Data Collection Sport Fisheries	Produce a catalogue of sport fisheries in the Indian Ocean; facilitate collection and reporting of data from sport clubs; training of local staff.	5
IOTC Data Summary	Development of Web Based online querying procedures for nominal catch, fishing craft, and catch-and-effort data.	6